

MEDIA ALERT

Bishop John Noonan to Launch Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign at Local Churches & Schools January 30 Designated as Human Trafficking Awareness Sunday

- Who:** Most Reverend John Noonan, Bishop of Orlando
Deacon David Gray, Director of Permanent Diaconate, Diocese of Orlando
Sr. Rosemary Hickmann, Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools
- What:** Bishop John Noonan joins forces with all Florida bishops to call upon Catholics and people of good will to fight the evil of human trafficking and is launching a Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign. Details of the campaign will be announced and a locally produced video on the topic will be shown during a press conference.
- When:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.
- Where:** Diocese of Orlando Offices, 50 East Robinson Street, Orlando

Background Information:

After seven years of research conducted by the Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights (CAHR) from 2004 to 2010, it has been found that not only is sex and labor trafficking present in Florida, but also thriving. In fact, Florida is ranked #3 in the country for incidences of human trafficking.

The Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign is designed to educate people about the problem of human trafficking and address responses to the problem as advocates of God's people. Human trafficking is a horrific crime against the basic dignity and rights of the human person. All efforts must be expended to end it to ensure that, one day soon, trafficking in human persons vanishes from the face of the earth.

During the press conference hear from Church leaders about how our parishes and schools are going to bring attention to the evil of human trafficking and be actively engaged in the fight against this offense to the human dignity of all persons. Also, watch an advance screening of a locally produced DVD titled "Invisible Chains" which explains the horrors of human trafficking and what we can do to stop it.